Presents

On the Veranda

Oneshot

MANGAKA

PUBLISHED IN

YEAR

ISBN

SCANS

TRANSLATOR

PROOFREADER

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QCER

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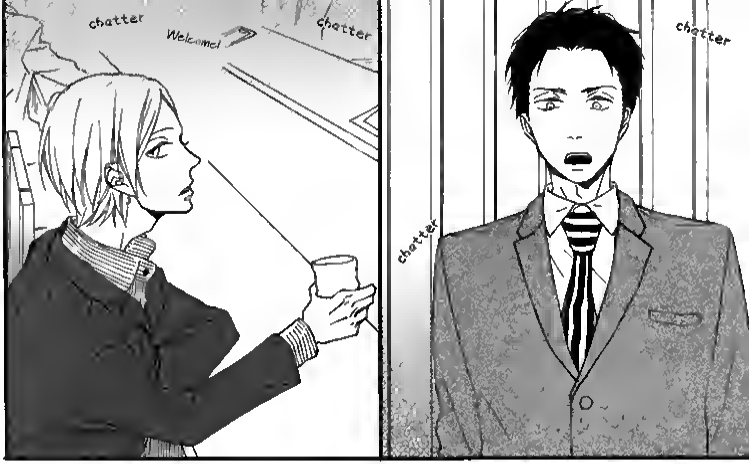
On the Veranda

On the Veranda
ART&STORY by Kei Ichikawa

I only noticed this calamity 3 days after moving in.

I SEE
SIGH
WHAT IS THIS

I feel like I've seen him before...
Even so,
THAT'S WHY THE RENT WAS SO CHEAP


chatter
Welcome!
chatter
chatter
chatter

I see him from time to time while commuting or going out to lunch.
that's right.
Oh yeah,
Are you serious...

IS THAT SEAT... TAKEN?
IS...
UM...
UH...
?

No wonder I felt like I've seen him before.
He works around here.
Excuse me!
OH!
NO, GO AHEAD
Sizzle
THANK YOU...
THIS FEELING OF DÉJÀ VU

BUT WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT
I DON'T WANNA WATCH SOMEONE AT IT EVEN IF I CAN'T HEAR
WHAT SHOULD I DO IF HE BRINGS A GIRL IN?
OF COURSE A BIT OF THE BED IS VISIBLE
puff
puff
I GUESS I'LL HEAD TO A SAUNA IF THAT EVER HAPPENS
puff
blow

that sort of situation never occurred

But contrary to my worries,

HE FALLS ASLEEP SO FAST!
IT'S NOT EVEN MIDNIGHT!

BUT WHAT'S ACTUALLY HAPPENING?
THE ONLY GOOD THING IN THIS AWFUL SITUATION IS THAT I CAN ONLY SEE THE END OF HIS BED
SO I CAN'T SEE HIM PROPERLY
I WONDER IF SOMEONE COULD EXPLAIN IT TO ME

ISN'T HE JUST LETTING IT ROAM FREE?
HIS LIVING SPIRIT OR SOMETHING

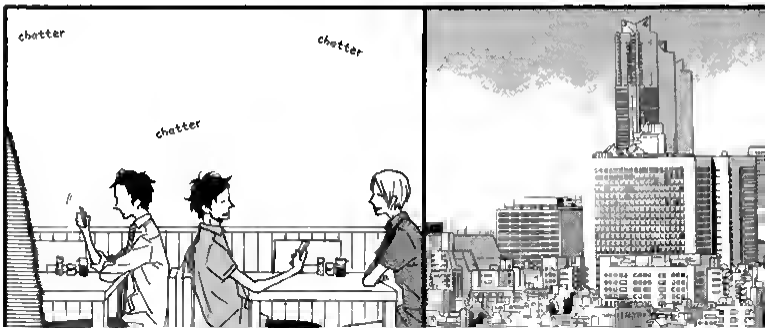
blow
DOES THAT SORT OF THING HAPPEN?
I AM.
YOU BETTER NOT BE SAYING THAT HALF-ASSED.
HEY.

HOW WOULD I KNOW. I'M JUST SAYING THAT COULD BE THE REASON.
AND YOU SAID THAT THE ACTUAL PERSON HAS A BODY
JUST LIKE AN URBAN LEGEND.
AN URBAN LEGEND. HUH?

MAYBE HE HAS SOME REGRETS ABOUT YOUR ROOM?
LIKE HE USED TO LIVE THERE WITH A LOVER OR SOMETHING?
OH, I GET IT. SO STUFF LIKE THAT ACTUALLY HAPPENS, HUH?
LIKE I SAID, I DON'T KNOW.
I'm not familiar with this sort of thing.

"I'll hate you and curse you,"

Well, something like that.
slide
It's sort of like I got a roommate

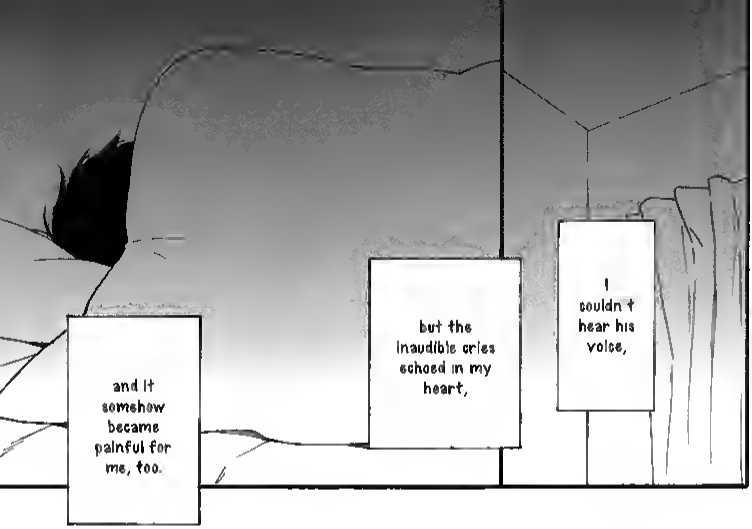

chatter
chatter
chatter

HERE'S YOUR SOBA MISO SET.
snap
ring ring
A PHONE CALL?
stand
ring ring
YEAH, SORRY. GIVE ME A SEC.
OH
chatter
chatter
Welcome!
chatter
SORRY, SORRY.
OH, WELCOME BACK

I had my back to him, so I couldn't see what sort of expression he had while he said that.

I THOUGHT HE WAS JUST LOOKING AT HIS PHONE
WHY SO SUDDENLY?
HE'S CRYING?
HE'S
" SHE GOT MARRIED TO SOMEONE ELSE "

sizzle
open


I couldn't hear his voice,
but the inaudible cries echoed in my heart,
and it somehow became painful for me, too.

IN THE END I COULDN'T SLEEP MUCH
AND HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO FACE HIM AFTER THAT?
WELL IT'S NOT LIKE WE ACTUALLY KNOW EACH OTHER, SO IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER
AND IT'S NOT LIKE I SEE HIM EVERY DAY
ring ring
ding dong
Leap
Lady

BADUMP
SPEAK OF THE DEVIL.
For some reason,
IT'S AWKWARD
fwip

YOU DON'T HAVE TO FORCE YOURSELF TO LAUGH LIKE THAT
YOU IDIOT

I usually smoke during lunch breaks at work
but I'm not a heavy smoker
Sometimes I smoke after dinner as well
HE'S NOT HERE AGAIN

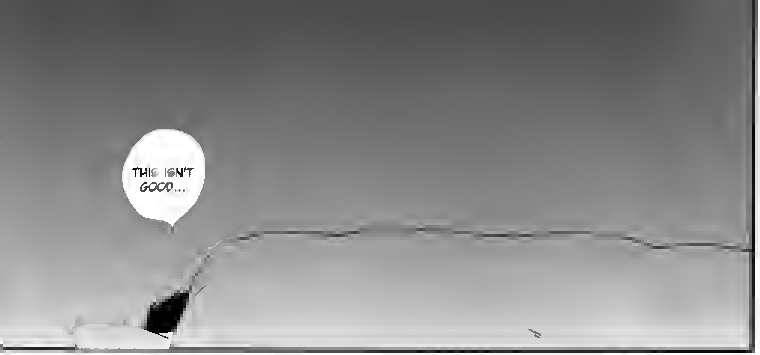
SPEAK OF
THE DEVIL

slide
BANG
smack
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
WHOA
I M
OH MY-
I'M SO SORRY
IT'S NOT LIKE I WAS TRYING TO WATCH OR SOMETHING
SHUT

rustle

shudder
twitch
twitch
pant

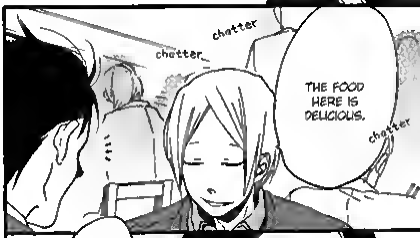
rustle
flomp


THIS ISN'T GOOD....

I STOPPED SMOKING
HUH?
SEE YA.
HUH?
SER-IOUSLY?!
HUH? WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
YOU'RE NOT SMOKING AT HOME, EITHER?
NO.
GEEZ MAYBE I SHOULD STOP, TOO

If I don't see
him, it's not
a problem.

OH.
Your fried horse mackerel is ready
chatter
chatter
chatter
CRAP
I HAVEN'T BEEN ON THE VERANDA IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I LET OUT MY VOICE
chatter
chatter
I'M SO SORRY WE'RE FULL RIGHT NOW
OH, THEN
IF YOU DON'T MIND BEING NEXT TO ME, GO AHEAD
Welcome!



After that, we didn't talk about anything special

Only about the weather, restaurants, around here.

Just noninvasive conversation in general

But I was
somehow
thankful
for that.

Of course there were times when I wouldn't see him,

but on this specific day, my chest was filled with feelings.

I'm not annoyed.

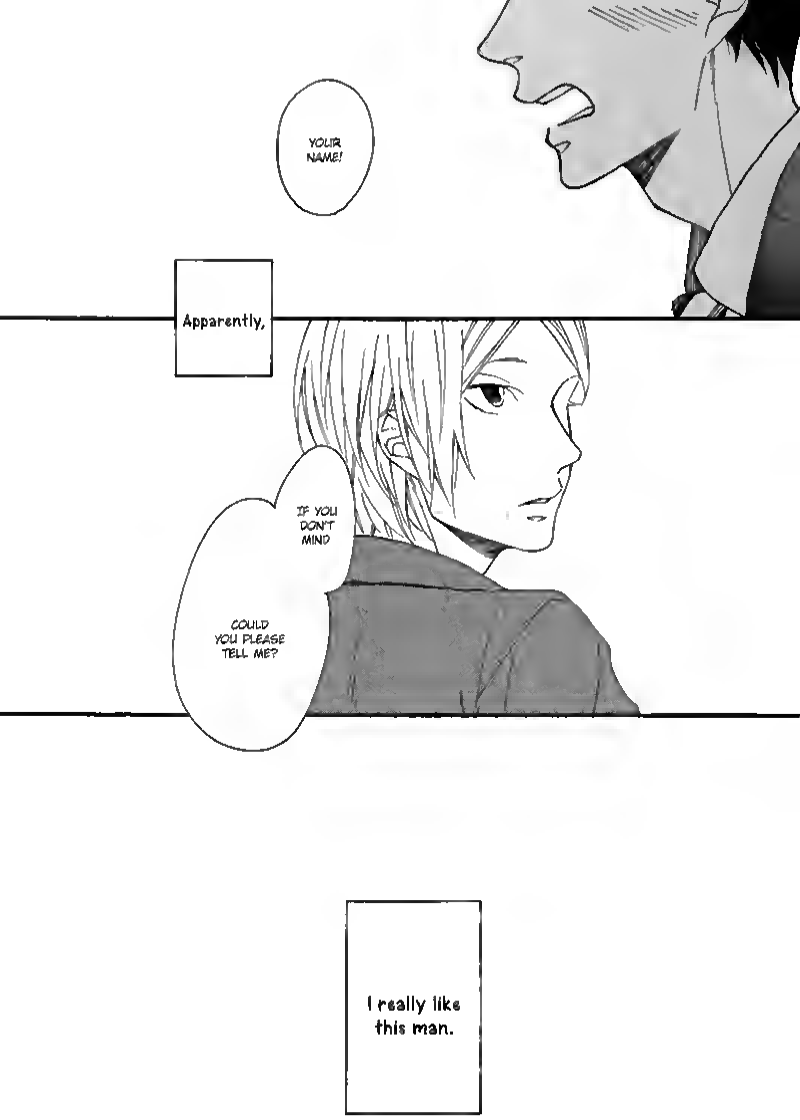
HE'S HERE
IT'S BEEN A WHILE
IS HE... FADING?

Why?

HUH?
YES?
UM...
...HUH?
I'm-
I'm sor-
gasp
Oh!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
NOT FEELING WELL? DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
I'M ACTING SO SUSPICIOUS
WHAT AM I DOING SO SUDDENLY?
SOME-THING HAPPEN?

...Something did happen.


YOUR NAME!
Apparently,
IF YOU DON'T MIND
COULD YOU PLEASE TELL ME?
I really like this man.

From then on,
I never saw him again on the veranda.
MATSUDAIRA-KUN!
Of course I do.
I do wonder what the real reason is though.
HE HAS NO MORE REGRETS OR SOMETHING?
I DON'T KNOW
This is an outsider's opinion, so I don't know what actually happened.

But if he were ever to tell me about it,

I think I'd be really happy.

the end.